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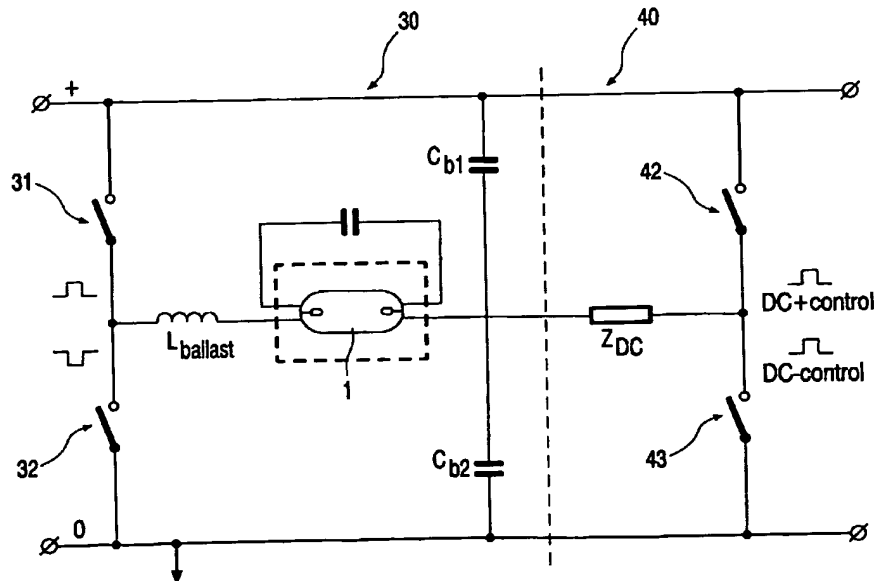
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(54) Title: **BALLAST**



(57) Abstract: Ballast for operating a low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp having two luminescent portions each radiating in a different color, said ballast comprising AC supply means for supplying an AC current to the lamp, wherein the ballast further comprises DC supply means for simultaneously supplying a DC current to the lamp, said DC supply means having means for changing the intensity and/or direction of said DC current.

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